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from leading authorities on the subject of the work, (the Crinoidea), that it was not published at the time the review was issued, nor is it yet published. We make this statement, since it is important that the date of publication of all books, especially scientific books, should be correctly ascertained and reported, and because we desire to prevent any confusion as to the date of this particular publication which might arise from our having published the review in question. As is usual with periodicals, we assume no responsibility for articles published in the NATURALIST unless they are anonymous.

The dates of publication of the numbers of the AMERICAN NATURALIST during the years 1895, and 1896 are as follows: for 1895; Jan., Jan. 15th; Feb., Feb. 14th; March, Mch. 6th; April, Apl. 9th; May, May, 13th; June, June 3d; July, July 9th; August, July 31st; Sept., Aug. 28th; Oct., Sept. 26th; Nov., Oct. 29th; Dec., Dec. 6th.

For 1896; Jan., Dec. 31st, 1895; Feb., Jan. 30th; March, Mch. 9th; April, Apl. 2d; May, May 2d; June, June 3d; July, July 2d; August, Aug. 6th; Sept., Sept. 9th; October, Oct. 3d; Nov., Nov. 2d; Dec., Dec. 5.

RECENT LITERATURE.

Gregory's Plant Anatomy.¹—Among the host of botanical textbooks that are constantly appearing, it is a pleasure to welcome one that is a contribution to certain departments of botanical literature, rather than a mere exposition of the laboratory and lecture methods, good, bad, and chiefly indifferent, of the author. While it is to be assumed that American investigations in histology and in cytology have not been lacking during these past few years, the fact remains that they have not as yet resulted in an increase of literature upon these subjects.

While there can be no doubt that the tide is setting steadily and strongly in the direction of higher things in cisatlantic botany, this is as yet a premonition rather than a fact, and the few texts leading toward this are to be regarded as pioneers and valued as such. These books are divisible into two classes, and in evaluating them, it is necessary to measure them by a proper standard. Thus, a book which purports to be a textbook should not be criticized because it does not manifest

¹ Elements of Plant Anatomy, by Emily L. Gregory, Ph. D. Professor of Botany in Barnard College. Ginn & Co., Boston, 1895, pp. VIII, 148. 8vo.

the depth and comprehensiveness of an exhaustive treatise, nor should an elaborate work on original investigation be supposed to cover the details of elementary science.

The present book is intended to serve as an introduction to the elements of phytotomy. This purpose is effected more than ordinarily well. It is no mean task to distinguish between the relevant and the irrelevant, between the essential and the non-essential in the construction of an elementary text. In these very points, the author has been particularly happy, and deserves congratulation upon the coherency and the coordination manifested in the text.

A striking feature of the book is its prevailing clearness. Many otherwise well written and helpful text-books are marred by the fact that too much is written between the lines, a thing deplorable in any scientific writing, but especially so in an elementary one. The author has succeeded, however, not only in establishing delightful perspicacity of style, but also in maintaining it throughout the work. In consequence, the beginner may find here a text which presents in a remarkably easily assimilated condition those rudiments of plant anatomy which should serve as a foundation for advanced botanical study in all lines.

The merits of the book are many and obvious, and warrant passing its few defects in silence. Its inspiration is readily recognizable as of the German school, an additional point in its favor were it not for a prefatory remark to which the reviewer must enter serious objection. The author states that "it is quite certain that the measure of our progress in any science may be found in our ability to adapt the thought and experience of other nations to our special needs and resources," a statement of such a very peculiar nature that comment is superfluous.

The book is divided into two parts, the first of which treats of cytology, or, as the author terms it, the anatomy of the cell. Under this, the first chapter treats of the cell as a unit, the second and third present the subjects of cell-wall and cell-contents in their modern aspects. The second part discusses the anatomy of tissues, first generally, and then more specially, with reference to the thoroughly antiquated divisions, Thallophytes and Cormophytes. The last chapter, the irrelevancy of which is excused by its importance, is devoted to an exposition of the secondary growth of stems and roots.—FREDERIC E. CLEMENTS.

Boulenger's Catalogue of Snakes in the British Museum.¹

—In this work we have a manual of Ophiology in which the subject is

¹ Catalogue of the Snakes in the British Museum. Vol. I, 1893; vol. II, 1894; vol. III, 1896. By G. A. Boulenger, F. R. S.